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Russian Budget Fails To Back Aid Offers

Washington, Jan. 17 (AP)—American officials studying the Soviet Union's budget for 1956 said today they find no evidence the Russians are planning to back up with cash their foreign-aid offers to Asian and African nations.

The Russians have talked big—a hint to Egypt about \$300,000,000 or so for the Aswan Dam, perhaps \$100,000,000 for Afghanistan development, \$95,000,000 for an Indian steel mill.

But the Russian budget, disclosed in broad outline some three weeks ago, has nothing in it like the \$4,860,000,000 in United States foreign aid which President Eisenhower requested of Congress yesterday.

No Bar To Russ Efforts

However, absence of definite foreign-aid items in its budget apparently is no bar to Russia's efforts to cultivate friends.

Yesterday, for example, the Kremlin told a New York magazine circulated in Latin America that the Soviet Union is interested in stepping up trade and diplomatic relations in that area. Replying to questions submitted by the editor of the magazine *Vision*,

Soviet Premier Bulganin offered Russian-made capital goods and machinery in exchange for Latin American farm and mining products. He also promised technical aid.

United States officials have been in close watch for any Soviet gesture toward Latin America—particularly any attempt to peddle surplus arms like those sold to Egypt.

May Peddle Old Weapons

Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, indicated in a recent speech there were signs the Communists might try to push surplus World War II arms in the Western Hemisphere.

The Soviet Union's 1956 budget totaled 570,000,000,000 rubles. It is impossible to translate that accurately into dollars. The ruble theoretically is worth four to a dollar, but there are so many factors that any calculation is bound to be inaccurate.

Of the total, sixteen per cent, or 93,000,000,000 rubles, is unexplained. The assumption is some foreign aid and a lot of atomic research may be covered by that mystery fund.

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